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Professor Loria's handling of the subject is marked by the skill and penetration which is so characteristic of most of his writings. But unfortunately the present study becomes thoroughly intelligible only after one has acquired some degree of familiarity with the system of economics which he has so ingeniously developed in his earlier works. Seemingly, he assumes that the casual statement of two apparently contradictory propositions regarding the part played by concise association in economic evolution is sufficiently intelligible without further elaboration (p. 25; cf. *Analisi della Proprietà Capitalista*, I, chap. 1; II, pp. 108-19).

As for the point of view taken by the author, it is to be observed that while, avowedly, it is that of the materialistic conception of history, yet the spiritual element enters into the scheme of thought as an important ingredient. In the author's interpretation of the actions of men there is a supposition of ends pursued, an imputation of the motive for gain. In the nature of the case any imputation of this character must be arbitrary and cannot be regarded as anything more than a mere hypothesis which requires verification based upon further investigation. By proceeding upon such a postulate, therefore, it appears as though the author has yielded to the temptation of resurrecting the *homo economicus*, about whose figure to fit the garment of his economic theories.

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Woman and Social Progress. By SCOTT NEARING and NELLIE M. S. NEARING. New York: Macmillan, 1912. 8vo, pp. xii+285. \$1.50.

Woman spelled with a very large W has been the occasion of the making of many books in recent months. In this work by Dr. and Mrs. Nearing, who appear several times in the text in the first person singular, "Woman" serves as a skeleton or framework on which are hung a great variety of intellectual garments, some quite modish, some the worse for wear, and some already cast off. In other words, ethnology, biology, history, economics, education, philanthropy, domestic science, dietetics, eugenics, suffrage, hygiene, the servant problem, the factory system, morality, motherhood, spending, social work, child-training, and the woman's college are among the subjects which in a rather inconsequential or illogical order, with some repetition, are

brought before the reader's attention in a necessarily cursory manner. It is not surprising that misstatements should appear, but it is inexcusable that the Massachusetts Institution (*sic*) of Technology should be cited as one of the schools where a woman "can obtain the best training for dressmaking, millinery, cooking and domestic science, typewriting and stenography, as well as for a number of the arts and professions."

The chapter on domestic science is fairly typical of the method followed. The following paragraph introduces the chapter: "Spending is the means of which domestic science is the end. Spending provides the housewife with the raw materials out of which domestic science produces the finished product. Whether the woman spends five or fifty dollars a week, this relation—spending, the means; domestic science, the end—remains the same." There follows a presentation of food values and "a statement of a few of the basic facts in dietetics," and finally references, very properly brief, to clothing, sheltering, care of children, and home-making.

The authors are evidently unaware that the reason which they give for the seeming indigestibility of food fried in fat has been long discarded by physiologists. They quote somewhat irrelevantly from C.L. Hunt's *Daily Meals of School Children*, Voie's standard of the amount of food elements estimated to be needed daily, but fail to show, what Miss Hunt herself states, that "people in this country have never conformed to this standard, the most commonly accepted American standard being that of Atwater." Differences in dietetic theories and the discussions of scientists are pointed out, and the housewife is then exhorted to use the tables of nutritive values so that her family may be fed "efficiently and cheaply." It would seem that the details of dietetic theory should be given much more fully if they are to be anything but confusing, but such treatment would be quite aside from the main subject of the book.

The authors have a noble theme and their infelicities of method and style cannot obscure their sympathetic spirit or admirable purpose. The book will undoubtedly help many women to see the part they must play in social progress and, it is to be hoped, suggest to men ways of aiding in the realization of these ideals. The book also renders a real service in emphasizing the fact that "woman's capacity is the great undirected force in modern society," and her capacity and activity must be so related as to make an effective contribution to social progress.

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